Vol. VII. Numb. 79

THE OBSERVATOR.

Reflexions on the Lord Primate of Armagh's *Certificate, and the Mayor of* Drogheda's *Commitment of a Presbyterian Minister in* Ireland *upon it; with the Unreasonableness and Danger of such Proceedings, as tending to increase* Jacobitism *and Popery.*

From Saturday, November 13. to Wednesday, November 17. 1708.

Country-m. YOU know that at our last Conversation, Master, you took Notice of a Letter from a Gentleman, who insinuated, that there was no Arch-bishop concern'd in the Imprisonment of a Presbyterian Minister at *Drogheda*, in *Ireland*; and that I told you before, that I had my Information from good Hands. I have now brought you the following Paper, to justify that my Information was good, and that there was an Arch-bishop concern'd in it. The Paper is thus, Master.

Com. Vill. } *By* William Patton, *Esq; Mayor of* Drogheda. } Drogheda.

'WHereas by an Act made at a Session of Parliament held in this Kingdom on the 26th 'of *October*, in the 17th Year of the Reign of 'Charles the II. late King of *England*, *Scotland*, *&c.* 'entitul'd, *An Act for the Uniformity of publick Prayers, and Administration of Sacraments, and other Rites 'and Ceremonies; and for the establishing the Form of 'making, ordaining, and consecrating Bishops, Priests, 'and Deacons, in the Church of* Ireland; it is, among 'other Things, enacted, That if any Person, who 'is by that Act disabl'd to preach any Lecture or 'Sermon, should, during the Time that he should 'continue and remain so disabl'd, preach any Sermon or Lecture, that then, for every such Offence, 'the Person and Persons so offending, should suffer three Months Imprisonment in the common 'Goal, without Bail or Mainprize; and that any 'two Justices of the Peace, of any County of this 'Kingdom, and the Mayor, or other chief Magistrate of any City or Town Corporate within the 'same, upon Certificate of the Ordinary of the 'Place, made to him or them, of the Offence 'committed, should, and were thereby requir'd, to 'commit the Person or Persons so offending, to the 'Goal of the same County, City, or Town Corporate, accordingly, as by the said Act may fully 'appear.

'And whereas *William Bigger*, being a Person so 'disabl'd, and no way qualify'd, according to the 'said Act, to preach any Lecture or Sermon, did, 'contrary to the Intent and Meaning of that Act, 'and without any License from any Arch-bishop, 'Bishop, or other Ecclesiastical Person of the Church 'of *Ireland*, on the 3d Day of *October*, in the Year 'of our Lord 1708. at the House of *Thomas Siddal*, 'in the Town of *Drogheda*, being a Town Corporate, in the County of the same Town, did, in an 'Assembly of divers Persons, Male and Female, then 'and there meet together to do some Act of Worship or Religion, preach a Sermon to the said Assembly, contrary to the Intent and Meaning of 'that Act.

'And whereas the most Reverend Father in God, '*Narcissus*, by divine Providence, Lord Arch-bishop 'of *Armagh*, Primate and Metropolitan of all *Ireland*, did, by his Certificate bearing Date the 5th 'Day of *October*, in the Year of our Lord 1708. 'certify the said Offence of *William Bigger* aforesaid, 'in these Words, *viz.*

'To the Mayor of the Town of *Drogheda* for the 'Time being. We *Narcissus*, Arch-bishop of *Armagh*, and Primate of all *Ireland*, have receiv'd Information, by several Proofs and Examinations 'taken before *William Patton*, Esq; Mayor of the 'said Town of *Drogheda*, That *William Bigger*, not 'being a Person by Law qualify'd to preach in any 'Place of publick Worship within this Kingdom, 'did, in Contempt of the Law of this Kingdom, 'and contrary thereto, on the 3d Day of *October*, 'in the Year of our Lord 1708. publickly preach a 'Sermon in, and unto an Assembly of divers Men 'and Women, met to worship and do some Act of 'Religion, at the House of *Thomas Siddal* in *Drogheda*. We do therefore certify to you, That the 'said *William Bigger* did preach in and unto the 'said Assembly at the Time and Place aforesaid; 'and that the said *William Bigger* is not qualify'd 'by Law to preach in any Church or Chappel, or 'Place of publick Worship within this Realm, nor 'was he ever licens'd by us to preach in or to any 'Assembly or Congregation whatsoever. Given 'under our Hand and Seal this 5th of *October*, 1708.

Narcissus Armagh.

The Commitment.

'THese are therefore to will and require you, 'in her Majesty's Name, to receive and take 'into your Custody, in the Goal of the said Town 'and County of *Drogheda*, the Body of the said '*William Bigger*, and him there safely keep for his 'said Offence, by the Space of three Months, without Bail or Mainprize, or until he shall be thence 'discharg'd by due Course of Law. Given under 'the Hand and Seal of me *William Patton*, Mayor 'of the said Town, the 9th Day of *October*, in the 'Year of our Lord 1708.

'*Willliam Patton*, Mayor.

'*To* Richard Cooper, *Keeper*
'*of the Goal of the Town and*
'*County of the Town of*
'Drogheda, *or his Deputy.*

Country-m. I desire your Opinion, Master, upon the Arch-bishop's Certificate; the Mayor of *Drogheda*'s Commitment; and your farther Thoughts upon the Grand Jury's Presentment.

Obs. As to the Presentment, *Roger*, I have Information, that there are several Things in it which are not true in Fact; particularly that part of it, that there has been no Appearance of Dissenters in that Town since the Revolution; for tho' the Dissenters there have not been constantly supply'd with a Minister, yet they have had frequent Meetings there, since that Time. And whereas they charge the Dissenters there to be few and inconsiderable, and for the most part very scandalous, I am inform'd, that some of those who countenance the Meeting there, are of as good Morals, and make as good a Figure, as most in the Town; and the *Northern* Presbyteries were so far from being officious in the Matter, that the Dissenters in *Drogheda* did make Application to them for a Supply of Ministers; upon which, they agreed to it, and first sent Mr. *Flemming*, who, after having preach'd there, and tho' the Dean had Spies upon him, to hear if he said any Thing contrary to the Doctrine of the Church of *England*, which they own'd he did not; yet the Dean, and the Magistrates of the

Town,

Town, ſent for him to the *Tholſel*, examin'd him by what Authority he preach'd there? And he was bound over, to anſwer it at the Seſſions. And you ſee by the Commitment founded on the Arch-biſhop's Certificate, that they have committed Mr. *Bigger*, without Bail or Mainprize; and I am inform'd, that they took him up on a *Saturday*, which diſappointed a numerous Congregation that came from the Town and Country to hear him on the Lord's-day. Now, *Roger*, to me this ſeems the more unaccountable, becauſe the Papiſts are much more numerous in *Drogheda*, than the Proteſtants, and have their regiſter'd Prieſts there; ſo that it muſt needs be Matter of Scandal to the Papiſts, and give them Cauſe of Triumph, to ſee the Proteſtants of the Church, perſecute the Presbyterians of the *North*, who are known to be the main Bulwark of the Proteſtant Intereſt in that Kingdom, and have twice been the chief Inſtruments of reſcuing it from Popery and Slavery, within the Memory of Man; for which, this, and other Treatment they have met with of late, ſeems to be but a very ungrateful Reward. 2. 'Tis the more unaccountable, conſidering the Poſt that the Primate has in the Civil Government; for one would think, a Perſon of that Eminence, ſhould not only have been very ſure in the Point of Law upon which he founds his Certificate, but ſhould likewiſe have conſider'd the State and Temper of the *Britiſh* Government; to which that of *Ireland* certainly ows a great Deference: For any Man of the meaneſt Capacity might have eaſily perceiv'd, that it would look very ſtrange, that thoſe who have a legal Toleration in *England*, and have the National Eſtabliſhment in *Scotland*, ſhould yet be made ſubject to Proſecution in *Ireland*. I doubt not, but his Grace knew, that our Houſe of Lords had put a Stop to the Proceedings of the high-flying Party againſt Proteſtant Diſſenters in ſome of our *Weſt India* Plantations; and therefore might have readily concluded, that ſuch Proceedings as thoſe, againſt the Presbyterians in *Ireland*, could not be very acceptable to the *Britiſh* Government, now that the two Nations are united.

Country-m. I can't but think what a Scandal theſe hot-headed Church-Men of *Dodwell*'s, and the *Rehearſal*'s Principles bring upon our Church and Government, among all the Proteſtants in *Europe*, Maſter. In my Country Senſe, 'tis a direct Affront to her Majeſty, who, by her Miniſter at the Court of *Vienna*, is pleading for the *Calviniſts* in *Sileſia*, that any of thoſe who are in Places of Power and Truſt under her, ſhould, at the ſame Time, perſecute the *Calviniſts*, in any of her own Dominions. For my Part, Maſter, I ſhould think, that our Miniſter there, would be hard put to it, for an Anſwer, if the Queſtion ſhould be ask'd him, Why he pleads for Liberty to thoſe in the Emperor's Dominions, who are perſecuted in the Queen of *Great Britain*'s, and that too, by the Countenance of ſo great a Man, as one of the Lords Juſtices, who is alſo Lord Primate of *Ireland*?

Obſ. Your Reflexions are juſt enough, *Roger*, and I hope now, that our Parliament is met, an Enquiry will be made into the Cauſe of the Growth of thoſe uncharitable Principles, which can have no other Tendency, nor ſerve any other End, but to encreaſe *Jacobitiſm*, Popery, and Atheiſm among us.

Country-m. In my Opinion, Maſter, the Caſe of *Ireland* requires a ſpeedy Conſideration; and that the Presbyterians there, who deſerve ſo well of *Great Britain*, ſhould be deliver'd from thoſe Oppreſſions, and from that Note of Baſtardy lately impos'd upon them by the Sacramental Teſt; and that none of thoſe intruſted with the Adminiſtration there, ſhould be ſuffer'd to perſecute Proteſtants, which muſt needs weaken their Hands againſt our common Enemies, the Papiſts, who have been ready to take all Opportunities to deſtroy the *Britiſh* and Proteſtant Intereſt in that Country. Certainly, Maſter, nothing could be worſe tim'd, than thoſe Proceedings at *Drogheda*; for 'twould ſeem, there are ſome People at the Bottom of thoſe Meaſures, who would not only make the *Ulſter* Proteſtants uncapable of defending their Country, as they did in two former Rebellions, but would alſo provoke them to deſert the common Cauſe by ſuch a Perſecution in Caſe of a third.

Advertiſements.

This Day is publiſh'd,

¶ A Letter from a Gentleman in Scotland, to his Friend in England, againſt the Sacramental Teſt, as inconſiſtent with the Union, dangerous to the Eccleſiaſtical Conſtitution of North Britain, and to ſuch Parts of their civil Conſtitution as are reſerv'd to them, inconſiſtent with the civil Intereſt of Great Britain in general; contrary to the Deſign of our Saviour's Inſtitution of the Lord's Supper, and to the Doctrine of the Church of England. Sold by B. Bragge, in Pater-Noſter-Row.

This Day is publiſh'd,

¶ Æſop at Oxford; or, A few ſelect Fables in Verſe, under the following Heads, viz. Æſop Matriculated. Æſop's Thanks. Æſop's Caſe. The Pay-maſter general. The famous Hiſtory of Goodman I did it. The Paradox. The Devil on two Sticks. The Female Hypocrite. A notable Allie. A Preſent for a Courtier. Worſe and worſe. Whitehall and St. James's. A Woman that did Good once in her Life. Diamonds cut Diamonds. The Foreigner. The Modern Convert. Moderation in Miniature. The Picture of an Eccleſiaſtick. The General Peace. One that loſt his Life for being out of Danger. The Way of the World. The Caſe is alter'd. The Cure worſe than the Diſeaſe. Sauce for a Gooſe, Sauce for a Gander. The ſhorteſt Way with the Diſſenters. The Royal Mourner. The Candidates. The Concluſion. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Price one Shilling.

Juſt publiſh'd,

¶ Mars ſtript of his Armour; or, The Army diſplay'd in all its true Colours. Containing the Characters of an Army in general, a Regiment or Battalion, a Captain-General, a Lieutenant-General, a Major-General, a Brigadier-General, a Colonel, a Lieut. Colonel, a Major, a Capt. of the Guards, an Aid de Camp, a Partizan, a Spy, a Captain, a Lieutenant, an Enſign, an Adjutant, a Quarter-Maſter, the Chaplain of a Regiment, the Surgeon, a Serjeant, a Grenadier, a private Centinel, a Provoſt, &c. By a Lover of the Mathematicks. Sold by J. Woodward in St. Chriſtopher's Church-yard, near the Royal Exchange, and B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price bound 1 s.

Juſt publiſh'd,

†‡† The Modern World unſrob'd; or, Both Sexes ſtript of their pretended Vertue. In two Parts. 1. Of the Ladies. 2. Of the Gentlemen. With familiar Deſcant upon every Character. By the Author of the London Spy. Sold by J. Baker at Mercers Chappel, J. Woodward in Threadneedle-ſtreet, and J. Morphew near Stationers-hall.

Juſt publiſh'd,

¶ The Wooden-World diſſected, in the Characters of, 1. A Ship of War. 2. A Sea-Captain. 3. A Sea-Lieutenant. 4. A Sea-Chaplain. 5. The Maſter of a Ship of War. 6. The Purſer. 7. The Surgeon. 8. The Gunner. 9. The Carpenter. 10. The Boatſwain. 11. A Sea-Cook. 12. A Midſhip-man. 13. The Captain's Steward. 14. A Sailor, &c. By a Lover of the Mathematicks. The ſecond Edition, corrected and amended by the Author. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price bound 1 s.

Juſt publiſh'd,

1. An Elegy on the much lamented Death of his Royal Highneſs Prince George of Denmark, price 1 d. 2. Windſor-Caſtle, a Poem, inſcribed to the Queen, price 6 d. 3. The Honour and Advantage of Great Britain, in a general Act of Redemption for inſolvent Debtors, humbly offer'd to the Conſideration of the Parliament. 4. Monſ. Drelincourt's Controverſies betwixt the Romiſh and Reform'd Churches, epitomiz'd, and done into Engliſh. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Where may be had, Poetical Reflections on the Vices and Follies of the Age, 3 Parts, price 6 d. each.

Juſt publiſh'd,

¶ An Enquiry into the Cauſes of the Prohibition of Commerce with France, during the preſent War: And whether, upon a Recapitulation, they will appear conſiderable enough to carry it againſt a free Importation, either immediately from thence, or from ſome Neighbouring Country, which being in Amity with us, and maintaining an open Correſpondence thither, are capable of ſupplying us. With an Account of the fraudulent Methods uſually taken to cheat her Majeſty of her Cuſtoms. And Propoſals for preventing the ſame. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater Noſter Row. price 6 d.

¶ Compleat Sets of the Obſervator, or ſingle ones, ever ſince it was begun by Mr. Tutchin, to this Time, are to be had of B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row, and H. Meere at the Black-Fryar in Black-Fryars; where may be had Mr. Tutchin's Effigies, neatly engraven on Copper.

LONDON, Printed for the Uſe of the Widow of the late Author, JOHN TUTCHIN.